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(54) A device and a method for mixing fodder

(57) A movable mixing device for mixing and/or loosening fodder, which device is provided with a mixing chamber (8) comprising one or more rotors (6) which are rotatable about a vertical axis, which mixing chamber (8) is provided with a bottom (9) and with wall parts (11) which slope upwards toward the outside, and wherein means are present for filling said mixing chamber (8), said means comprising a closable opening in a side wall (11) of said mixing chamber (8), through which the material to be mixed can be supplied to the mixing chamber (8).

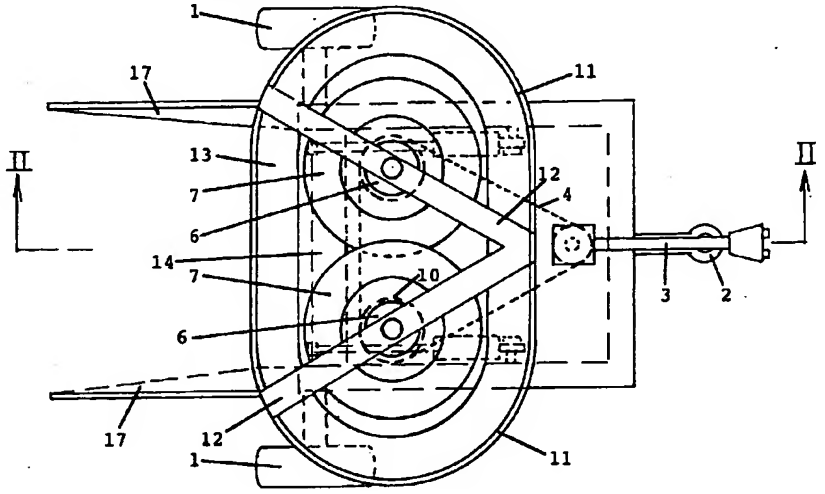

FIG. 1

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Description

The invention relates to a movable mixing device for mixing and/or loosening fodder, which device is provided with a mixing chamber comprising one or more rotors which are rotatable about a vertical axis. The term fodder in this description is to be given a wide interpretation, it comprises silage, among other things, but also all other types of fodder that need to undergo a mixing and/or loosening operation before being fit for consumption. Also the terms mixing and loosening are to be given a wide interpretation. Also cutting operations fall under that term.

Mixing devices provided with a rotor which is rotatable about a vertical axis are known in agriculture. Such devices generally have a mixing chamber provided with a side wall which slopes upwards toward the outside. Material to be mixed, for example silage, is introduced into the device from above, after which it is processed by the rotor, which is provided with mixing means. A conveyor belt may for example be used for introducing material into the mixing chamber, which conveyor belt transports the material to above the device and then drops it into the mixing chamber. After having undergone the required processing in the mixing chamber, the fodder may be discharged through an opening in the side wall of the mixing chamber to a conveyor belt, which can subsequently carry off said fodder to the desired location.

The object of the invention is to provide an improved machine for mixing and/or loosening fodder.

According to one aspect of the invention the device is provided with a mixing chamber, which may be filled through an opening in the side wall thereof. It is possible thereby to design part of the side wall of the mixing chamber such that said part of the side wall is used to introduce material into the mixing chamber when filling said mixing chamber.

Preferably the feed opening of the mixing chamber is located at the rear side of the device. The part of the side wall which closes the mixing chamber during mixing and which is open during filling will be called the moving means herein.

The moving means may be in the form of a loading board, which is secured in a fixed position to a telescopic arm or which is pivoted to two pivoting arms. The loading board can pick up material and move said material to the mixing chamber by means of the arm or arms. The loading board may thereby be provided with cutting means for cutting off or sawing off silage, for example. By providing the device with guide plates it may be ensured that the material is correctly moved to within the mixing chamber. All this will be explained in more detail by means of embodiments.

The moving means may also be in the form of a wall part of the mixing chamber, which can pivot about a substantially horizontal pivot axis located near the bottom of the mixing chamber. As a result of this the wall part, hereinafter also called loading board, can pivot downwards to the floor or to a position near the floor, after which the material may be deposited on the loading board. The term floor refers to the floor on which the device or the tractor to which the device is attached stands. The material is then introduced into the mixing chamber as a result of the pivoting of the loading board to the closed position. Also in this embodiment of the invention guide plates may be provided for correctly guiding the material to the mixing chamber.

The above-described loading board may also be provided with cutting means, for example for cutting off silage, whereby said cutting means are mounted in such manner as to capable of pivoting movement with respect to the loading board and whereby said cutting means can pivot upwards along with the loading board to the closed position.

The device according to the invention may be provided with wheels, so that the device can be hitched to a tractor as a trailer, it is also possible, however, for the device to be hitched to a tractor via the three-point linkage.

If the device is provided with wheels, said wheels are preferably not positioned under the bottom of the device but beside said bottom. Furthermore the device is preferably designed such that the wheels are positioned behind the widest part of the device. When in addition to this the driving gear of the rotor or rotors is of flat construction, the bottom may be positioned close to the floor, and the wheels can be pivoted upwards during the filling of the mixing chamber, in such a manner that the bottom of the mixing chamber will come to lie even closer to the floor.

The mixing chamber may be round or oval or have an otherwise elongated shape, when seen in plan view. Preferably the mixing chamber is configured such that the largest dimension or nearly the largest dimension is located transversely to the direction of movement. The mixing chamber may be provided with one or more rotors. If more than one rotor, for example two rotors are provided, said rotors may be fitted with mixing means arranged in overlapping relationship, seen in plan view. The mixing means of the various rotors may be positioned at different heights thereby and rotate in intersecting paths.

Preferably the rotors have the same direction of rotation. The rotors are preferably driven by means of a chain drive, which chain drive may be of flat construction, butting against the under-side of the bottom of the mixing chamber, and which is moreover capable of bridging a large reduction.

If a loading board secured to one telescopic arm is used, it is preferred to use two rotors, so that the pivoting telescopic arm may at least partially be positioned between the upper sides of said rotors when occupying its lowermost position. If a loading board secured to two telescopic arm is used, it is preferred to use one rotor, so that the two pivoting arms may be positioned on either side of the upper side of said rotor when occupying their lowermost position.

The invention furthermore relates to a method for mixing fodder, wherein the mixing chamber, which is provided with a rotor which rotates about a vertical axis, is filled with material through an opening in the side wall.

Another aspect of the invention relates to the discharge of the mixed material. To that end a closable opening may be provided in the side wall, near the bottom of the mixing chamber. Preferably such a closable opening is closed by means of a hydraulically operated slide, which can move in substantially horizontal direction. When being closed said slide preferably moves in the direction of movement of the fodder during the mixing operation. In an other embodiment the slide can move in vertical direction.

When opening the said slide the hydraulic cylinder controlling the slide can also move a guide chute to an operational position, whereby the mixed material can slide from the discharge opening to the desired location. When closing the slide the guide chute is moved away, preferably by pivoting in upward direction. Notably when the discharge opening is positioned at a side of the device it is important to move away the guide chute to limit the width of the device. In a preferred embodiment, when opening the slide, also a safety guard can be moved in a operational position to prevent persons and animals from being near the discharge opening. The movement of the slide as well as the movement of the guide chute as well as the movement of the safety guard can take place simultaneously by making use of the same hydraulic cylinder.

The discharge opening for the material may be (partially) formed by a part of the bottom of the mixing chamber. It is possible thereby to pivot this part of the bottom of the mixing chamber downwards, together with part of the side wall, about a substantially horizontal pivot axis located near the bottom of the mixing chamber, in such a manner that the part that has been swung down forms a guide.

Downstream of the discharge opening, seen in the direction of movement of the material during the mixing operation, a substantially plate-shaped stop means may be provided within the mixing chamber. Said stop means is positioned transversely to the direction of flow of the material, which stop means may be adjustable, for example by sliding said stop means from outside to its desired position within the mixing chamber through a slot in the side wall of said mixing chamber. Preferably the device according to the invention is provided with a hydraulic system for operating the discharge opening, which hydraulic system functions to open the discharge opening as well as to move the stop means. Also further means may be operated thereby, which means may for example comprise a chute or guide plates for guiding the material to its desired location.

One discharge opening may be provided at the rear side of the device, which opening is provided with a relatively long discharge chute for guiding the material from the opening to a desired location behind or on one side of the device. In another preferred embodiment two discharge openings are provided on either side of the device, preferably at the location where the device has its greatest width.

If the mixing chamber of the device is provided with a bottom, part of which can hinge so as to form a feed opening or a discharge opening, whereby the hinge is located near the bottom in substantially horizontal direction, the fixed part of the bottom is preferably extended beyond said hinge, so that the hinge remains free from the material to be mixed.

Further aspects of the invention are disclosed in the following description of the Figures and defined in the claims.

Figure 1 is a plan view of an embodiment of a mixing device;
Figure 2 is a sectional view along the line II - II in Figure 1;
Figure 3 is a rear view of the device according to Figure 1;
Figure 4 is a plan view of the same embodiment in a different position;
Figure 5 is a sectional view along the line V - V in Figure 4;
Figure 6 is a rear view of the device according to Figure 4;
Figure 7 shows an embodiment provided with a loading board secured to a telescopic arm;
Figure 8 is a view according to the arrow VIII in Figure 7;
Figure 9 shows an embodiment provided with a pivoted loading board;
Figure 10 is a plan view of the device according to Figure 9;
Figure 11 shows a device provided with a pivoted discharge chute;
Figure 12 shows a plan view of the device according to Figure 11;
Figure 13 shows an embodiment comprising a loading board provided with a cutting means;
Figure 14 shows the embodiment according to Figure 13 in a different position;
Figure 15 shows an embodiment with lateral discharge openings; and
Figure 16 shows an embodiment having an alternative rotor.

The figures are only very diagrammatic illustrations of embodiments, wherein like parts are numbered alike. Although the device according to the invention may be constructed in such a manner that it can be mounted in the three-point linkage of a tractor, the illustrated embodiments are provided with wheels 1 and coupling means 2, by means of which the device can be hitched to a drawing vehicle. The device is driven by means of a drive shaft 3, which can be coupled to the power take-off of the drawing vehicle. In the embodiments the rotor is driven by means of a chain drive provided with a chain 4, which is coupled to the power take-off shaft 3 by means of a right-

angled transmission 5. The advantage of a chain transmission is that a high reduction can be obtained and that the driving gear can be of flat construction, so that it does not project downwards too much.

In the embodiments the device according to the invention is provided with one or two rotors 6, which are rotatable about a substantially vertical axis. Like the other parts of the device, the rotors 6 are only diagrammatically indicated, and in particular the mixing means secured to the rotors, which may have a great many different shapes, are only diagrammatically indicated as disc-shaped parts 7 in most of the Figures.

The device comprises a mixing chamber 8, in which the rotors 6 can rotate, which mixing chamber 8 has a bottom 9, through which said rotors 6 extend and under which the rotor drive comprising a chain 4 and chain wheels 3 is mounted. The mixing chamber 8 is furthermore provided with a side wall 11, which slopes upwards from the bottom 9 towards the outside. The side wall 11 may be round or oval, when seen in plan view, or have an otherwise elongated shape extending either in transverse direction or in the longitudinal direction of the device.

A first embodiment is shown in Figures 1 - 16. Figure 1 is a plan view of a device comprising two rotors 6, whereby the lowermost of the (diagrammatically illustrated) mixing means overlap (seen in plan view). The lowermost mixing means 7 are thereby larger than the mixing means 7 disposed thereabove. The rotors 6 are journalled in the bottom 9 of the device, as well as in supporting beams 12, which are secured to the upper edge of the side wall 11.

In all embodiments the mixing chamber 8 may be filled with material through a recess in the side wall 11 located at the rear side of the device. The material may consist of silage, which is cut from a stock, or of any other material or mixture of materials that are to be loosened and/or mixed.

In the embodiment according to Figure 1 the rear wall part 13 of side wall 11, together with a bottom part 14, can pivot about a substantially horizontal pivot axis located in the bottom 9 and extending in the transverse direction of the device. The wall part 13 can be swung back so far that its edge will come to lie near the floor or on the floor. The pivoting movement of the wall part 13 is effected by the control cylinder 15, which is connected to the pivoted part by means of arm 16. Furthermore means may be provided for moving the wheels 1 upwards with respect to the device, so that the device can be moved to a position closer to the floor. After the material to be mixed has been deposited on wall part 13, the control cylinder 15 can pivot the wall part 13 upwards, so that said wall part butts against the other part of side wall 11. The material to be mixed will then land in the mixing chamber 8. In order to prevent material from falling sideways off the wall part 13, guide walls 17 are provided on either side of the path of movement of the wall part 13, said guide walls in this embodiment extending obliquely outwards in rearward as well as in upward direction, whereby said guide walls have a slightly curved surface.

The diagrammatically illustrated vertical rotors may have any desired shape and the mixing means 7 may be provided with any desired type of catching means, such as blades, whilst in addition they may be slightly helical, so that the material is moved upwards during rotation. The two rotors 7 may rotate in the same direction, as shown in the embodiment, as a result of which some cutting of the material will take place by the overlapping mixing means. The rotors 7 may also rotate in opposite directions, to which end the drive chain 4 must be guided into a different path, of course, or whereby a different type of drive is used.

Figure 7 shows an embodiment wherein the device is provided with a telescopic arm 20, to which a board 21 extending substantially perpendicularly thereto is secured. The board 21, which may be slightly curved so as to butt closely against the remaining portion of the side wall 11, is at its bottom side provided with cutting means in the shape of saw teeth 22, which may make a sawing movement, so that it is possible to cut silage from a stock, for example. The board 21 is on either side provided with a part 23 extending substantially horizontally to the board, said part likewise being provided with saw teeth 24, so that a block of silage can be cut off. It is also possible for the board 21 to have a part 23 on one side only. The hydraulic system with which saw 22 is driven is not shown in the figures.

In the position in which the board 21 closes the feed opening said board may extend slightly obliquely, so as to extend towards the outside in the direction of movement of the fodder during the mixing operation. Such a position is advantageous, because it prevents said fodder from accumulating and exerting a thrust before the board.

The telescopic arm may be slid into the hollow tube 25 by means of a hydraulic drive. The telescopic arm 20 and a tube 25 together form a telescopic arm, which can pivot about pivot pin 26, which is located near the upper edge of the mixing chamber, and that at the front side. The telescopic arm 20, 25 can be pivoted about pin 26 by means of a hydraulic cylinder 27.

Figure 7 also shows that the wheels 1 can be pivoted upwards by means of hydraulic cylinder 28, which is secured to side wall 11 at its upper side and to pivoting arm 29 at its bottom side, said piyoting arm 29 on the one hand being connected to the wheel 1 and on the other hand, via pivot pin 30, to the frame of the device. As is apparent from Figure 7, wheel 1 may be moved in such a manner with respect to the device that the rear side of the device will come to lie near the floor.

The rear side of the device is provided with extended part 31 of the bottom 9 and with guide plates 32. When the silage cut off by the saw teeth 22, 24 is moved towards the mixing chamber by means of board 21, the extended part 31 of the bottom and the guide plates 32 provide an adequate guiding of the material to the mixing chamber 8. After sufficient material has thus been intro-

duced into the mixing chamber, the wheels may be pivoted in such a manner that the device occupies a substantially horizontal position, after which the material can be loosed by rotation of the rotors 6 and possibly be mixed with other material during the time that the device is driven to the place where the material is to be delivered.

As is apparent from Figure 7, the telescopic arm 20, 25 may be pivoted so far downwards that it will partially come to lie between the two rotors 6.

Figure 9 shows an embodiment wherein the board 21 is pivoted to two arms 35 by means of pivot pin 36 and hydraulic control cylinder 37. The arms 35 can be pivoted about pivot pin 39 by means of control cylinders 38. It will be apparent that the board 21 can move in such a manner that silage is cut from a stock thereof by means of saw teeth 22, 24.

Guide plates 40 are provided on either side of the feed opening of the device for guiding the material being moved towards the mixing chamber 8 by the board 21, and the feed opening is at its bottom side provided with a guide plate 41, which extends so far into the mixing chamber 8 that it is partially located above the lowermost mixing means 7 of rotor 6. As a result of this the material is deposited on said lowermost mixing means 7 from above. The part 23 extending perpendicularly to the board 21 may likewise extend to above the lowermost part of rotor 6 in the position in which board 21 closes the feed opening. A similar construction may also be used in the embodiment according to Figure 7.

In this embodiment the mixing chamber 8 is provided with one rotor 6, which is with its upper side journalled in a frame which consists of two beams 12, which are each secured to the upper edge of wall 11 at their front sides. The arms 35 can be pivoted downwards so far that they are at least partially positioned on either side of the upper side of rotor 6.

The device according to the embodiment can be moved towards the floor in the manner already described before by moving the wheels upwards by means of the pivoting arm 29.

The embodiment according to Figure 11 comprises a discharge opening 45, which is centrally provided at the rear side of the device. The discharge opening 45 can be opened by moving the slide 46 upwards by means of hydraulic cylinder 47, so that an opening is formed at the rear side of the mixing chamber. The discharge opening 45 is provided with a protective cover 48, which guides the material exiting from the mixing chamber towards a discharge chute 49, which can pivot about pivot pin 50. As is apparent from the plan view shown in Figure 12, the discharge chute 49 can be pivoted in such a manner that the material can be delivered both straight behind the device and on either side of the device.

In an other - not shown - embodiment one or two discharge openings at the side or sides respectively are present which can be opened and closed by a slide as shown in Figure 11 as slide 46 which is operated by hydraulic control cylinder 47. The same control cylinder can simultaneously move a guide chute and/or a safety guard in an operational position or in a moved away position. In the operational position the guide chute can guide the mixed material to the desired location and the safety guard prevent persons and animals to be near the discharge opening. In the moved away position the width of the device will be limited to the width of the mixing chamber 8.

Figure 13 shows another embodiment, wherein the device is provided with a pivoted loading unit 52, which can be pivoted about a pivot pin 53 by means of a control cylinder 54. A cutting device 55 is pivoted to loading unit 52, which cutting device can be pivoted about pivot pin 57 by means of control cylinder 58. The cutting device 55 is provided with cutting means 59, which may or may not be movable, by means of which silage may be cut from a stock, for example. The guide plate 50 thereby ensures that the cut-off silage lands in the loading unit 52. When sufficient material has been cut off, the entire loading unit can be pivoted about pivot pin 53 to the position shown in Figure 14, whereby the cut-off material is deposited in the mixing chamber.

Figure 15 is a cross-sectional view of the device showing two lateral discharge openings 65. Discharge opening 65 is formed by swinging down a wall part 66 and a bottom part 67 as indicated by the arrow 68. Said swinging down takes place about pivot pin 69, by moving lever 70 by means of hydraulic cylinder 71. The swing-down wall part 66 is provided with side walls 72, which, together with the wall part 66, form a discharge chute for the material in order to deposit the material in the right place. The side walls 72 may be parts which in the closed position of the discharge opening 65 extend into the mixing chamber 8. The side walls 72 may also consist of lamellae-like parts, which slide along each other when the discharge opening 65 is opened, thus forming a guide wall.

Figure 16 shows an embodiment of the device wherein the rotor is provided with mixing means in the shape of downwardly extending parts 75, which extend from a higher part 76 of the rotor to the bottom 9 of the mixing chamber 8. At their bottom side the parts 75 are provided with blades 77. Preferably the parts 75 are spring parts. The blades 77 may alternately extend at an angle in radial direction, so that the material to be mixed is moved towards the outside or towards the inside.

If more than one rotor 6 is present in a mixing chamber, the paths of the mixing means of the respective rotors may intersect, whereby the movements of the various rotors are attuned to each other in such a manner, that the mixing means do not touch each another. The rotors will rotate in opposite directions thereby.

Also if two adjacent rotors 6 are fitted with mixing means 75, 77 according to Figure 16, the paths of movement of said mixing means 75, 77 may overlap, whereby the higher part 76 is provided with the necessary recesses.

The construction is not limited to the illustrated embodiments, which are only given by way of illustration.

Further preferred embodiments of the movable mixing device according to the invention are as follows.

A device whereby the said feed opening is located at the rear side of said mixing chamber, seen in the normal direction of movement of the device.

A device whereby two rotors are provided, the vertical axes of which lie in a vertical transverse plane, so that said rotors are positioned on either side of said telescopic arm, seen from above, whereby said arm, when occupying its lowermost position, is at least partially positioned between said rotors or between upwardly extending parts thereof or fastening means for the rotors provided thereabove.

A device whereby said cutting means comprise, at least at one end, a part extending substantially perpendicularly to said board.

A device whereby at least two rotors are present, whose mixing means overlap, seen from above.

A device whereby the paths of the mixing means of several rotors intersect each other, whereby the rotors rotate in opposite directions and means are provided for attuning the movements of said rotors to each other.

A device whereby said rotors comprise a helical mixing means and that their rotations are attuned to each other.

A device whereby said guide walls extend beyond the side wall of the mixing chamber into said mixing chamber.

A device whereby a lower guide wall slopes upwards into the mixing chamber, whereby part of the rotor can move under the guide wall.

A device whereby said guide wall is provided with a flexible closing means, against which the moving means can abut in the closed position of the feed opening.

A device whereby, in the position wherein the feed opening is closed, said moving means slightly extends at an acute angle with respect to the vertical longitudinal plane of the device.

A device whereby the shape of the side wall of the mixing chamber downstream of the feed opening is such that there is an initially increasing space between rotor and wall in downstream direction.

A device whereby the upper part of the side wall of the mixing chamber, at the front side of the device where the pivoted arm may be pivot-mounted, is curved in rearward direction, this being the direction of the mixing chamber.

A device whereby said guide walls include an angle with the vertical longitudinal plane, and that in such a manner that said guide walls diverge both in rearward and in upward direction.

A device whereby means are provided for lowering said mixing chamber with respect to said wheels to a position closer to the floor.

A device whereby a part of the side wall can be swung down in such a manner that its edge can be moved to a position near the ground, said swing-down part being provided with a pivoted cutting means, which is capable of cutting material from a stock, which material is introduced into said mixing chamber by swinging up the swing-down part.

A device whereby said device comprises a discharge opening for the mixed and/or loosened material, which is provided in a side wall, near the bottom, and which is provided with a closing slide being movable in a substantially vertical direction.

A device which comprises a discharge opening for the mixed and/or loosened material, which discharge opening is provided with a swing-down part of the wall of the mixing chamber.

A device whereby said swing-down wall part forms a guide chute for the material.

A device whereby said swing-down part also comprises a part of the bottom of the mixing chamber.

A device whereby guide walls are provided, which laterally bound said swing-down part.

A device whereby two discharge openings located opposite each other are provided at the location where the mixing chamber has its largest diameter.

A device whereby a plate-shaped stop means can slide through the side wall into the mixing chamber downstream of said discharge opening, and that the same hydraulic means control said discharge opening and said stop means.

A device whereby a discharge opening is provided with a discharge chute, which can pivot about a substantially vertical pivot axis located near said discharge opening.

A device whereby said discharge chute is centrally pivoted to the rear side of the device.

A device whereby said rotor is provided with mixing means, which extend downwards from a higher part of the rotor.

A device whereby said mixing means are spring means, which extend to a position near the bottom of the mixing chamber.

A device whereby one or more rotors are driven at their bottom sides by means of a chain drive.

A device whereby part of the bottom can pivot about a pivot axis located near the bottom and whereby the fixed part of said bottom continues above and beyond said pivot axis.

Claims

1. A movable mixing device for mixing and/or loosening fodder, which device is provided with a mixing chamber (8) comprising one or more rotors (6) which are rotatable about a vertical axis, which mixing chamber (8) is provided with a bottom (9) and with wall parts (11) which slope upwards toward the outside, and wherein filling means are present for filling said mixing chamber (8), said means comprising a closable opening in a side wall (11) of said mixing chamber (8), through which the material to be mixed can be fed to the mixing chamber (8).

2. A device according to claim 1 characterized in that said device is provided with wheels (1) and/or with means (2) for hitching the device to a tractor, whereby the wheels (1) are positioned outside the bottom (9) of the mixing chamber (8), seen in plan view.

3. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said feed opening may be closed during the mixing operation by a moving means which introduces the material into the mixing chamber (8) while said filling takes place.

4. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said filling means are provided with a telescopic arm (20,25), which can pivot in a vertical longitudinal plane (seen in the direction of movement) about a pivot point (26) which is located near the upper edge of the mixing chamber (8), at the front side thereof (seen in the direction of movement), which arm (20,25) is at one end provided with a board (21) extending substantially transversely to said arm (20,25), which board (21) constitutes the moving means and which is capable of substantially closing said feed opening.

5. A device according to any one of the claims 1 - 3, characterized in that said filling means are provided with two substantially parallel arms (35), which can each pivot in a vertical longitudinal plane (seen in the direction of movement) about coaxially positioned hinges (39), which are located near the upper edge of the mixing chamber (8), at the front side thereof (seen in the direction of movement), said arms (35) at their ends being pivoted to a board (21) which may form the moving means and which can substantially close said feed opening.

6. A device according to any one of the claim 4 or 5, characterized in that said board (21) is near its bottom edge provided with cutting means (22,24) for cutting silage from a stock.

7. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said feed opening is bounded by guide walls (17), along which the moving means can move and which guide the material to the mixing chamber (8).

8. A device according to claim 7, characterized in that a lower guide wall (17) extends outwards to a position near the floor on which the device stands.

9. A device according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that said filling means comprise a part (13) of the side wall (11) and a part (14) of the bottom (9) of the mixing chamber (8), which parts (13,14) are jointly pivoted about a pivot axis located in the bottom (9), which extends in transverse direction, whereby the edge of the pivoted part (13,14) located furthest from said pivot axis can butt against the floor on which the device stands.

10. A device according to claim 9, characterized in that said opening is provided with two guide walls (17) extending outwards with respect to the mixing chamber (8), along which the pivoted part (13,14) can move and which laterally bound said feed opening.

11. A method a method for mixing and/or loosening fodder, wherein said fodder is processed by one or more rotors (6) which rotate about a vertical axis, whereby the mixing chamber (8) is filled through an opening in the side wall (11) thereof.

12. A method wherein one or more of the measures according to any one of the preceding claims is used.

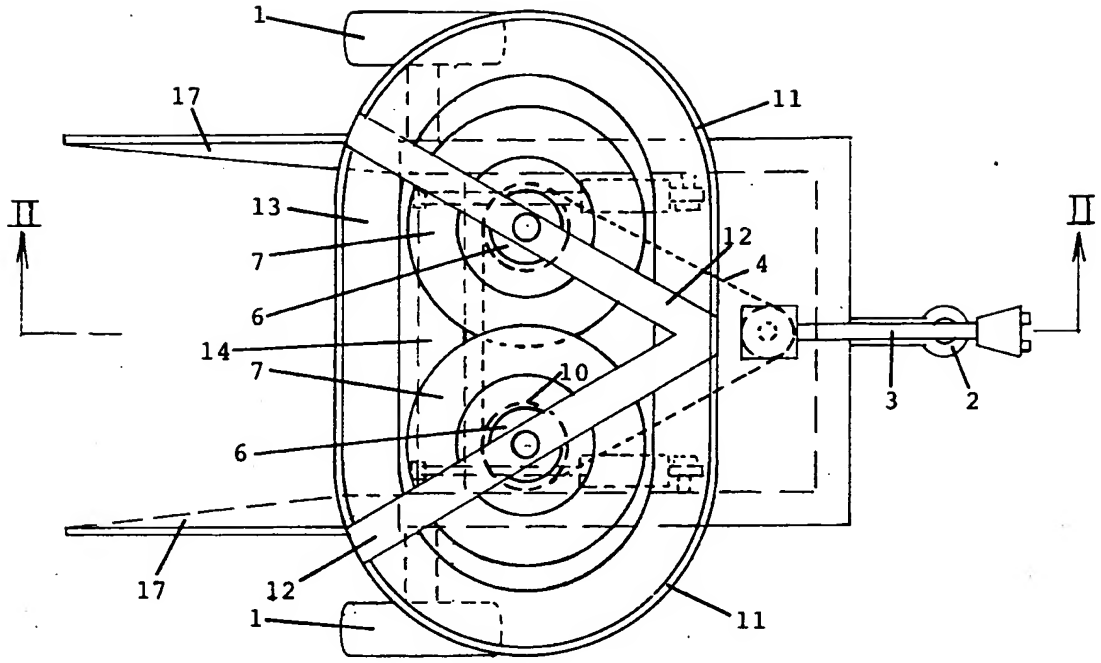
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FIG. 1

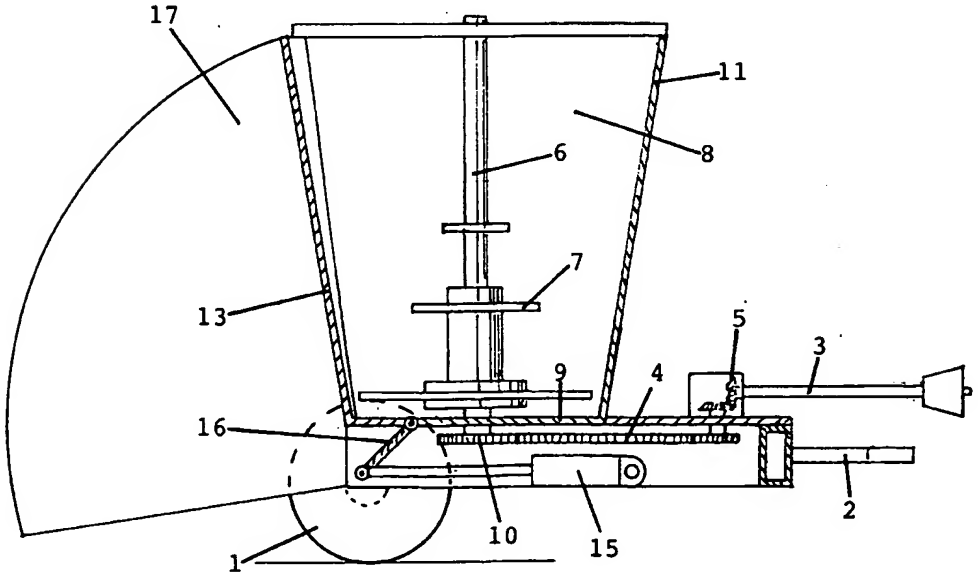
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FIG. 2

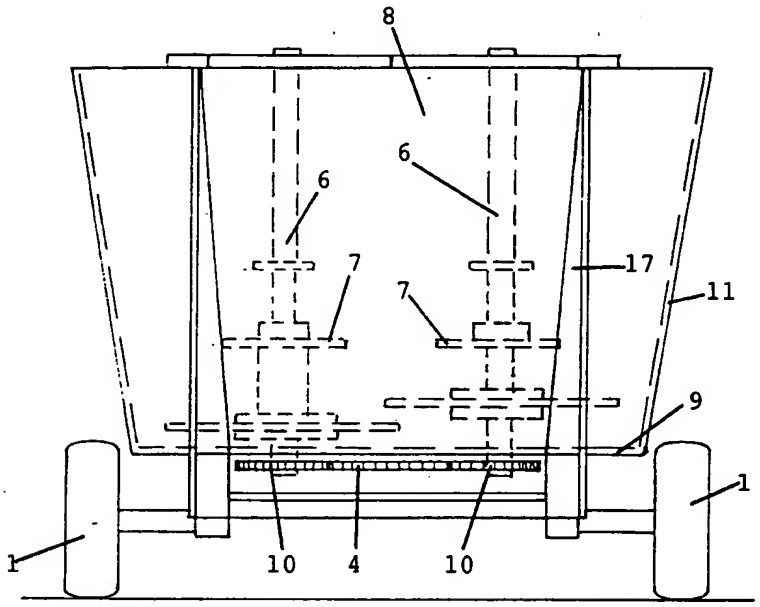

FIG.3

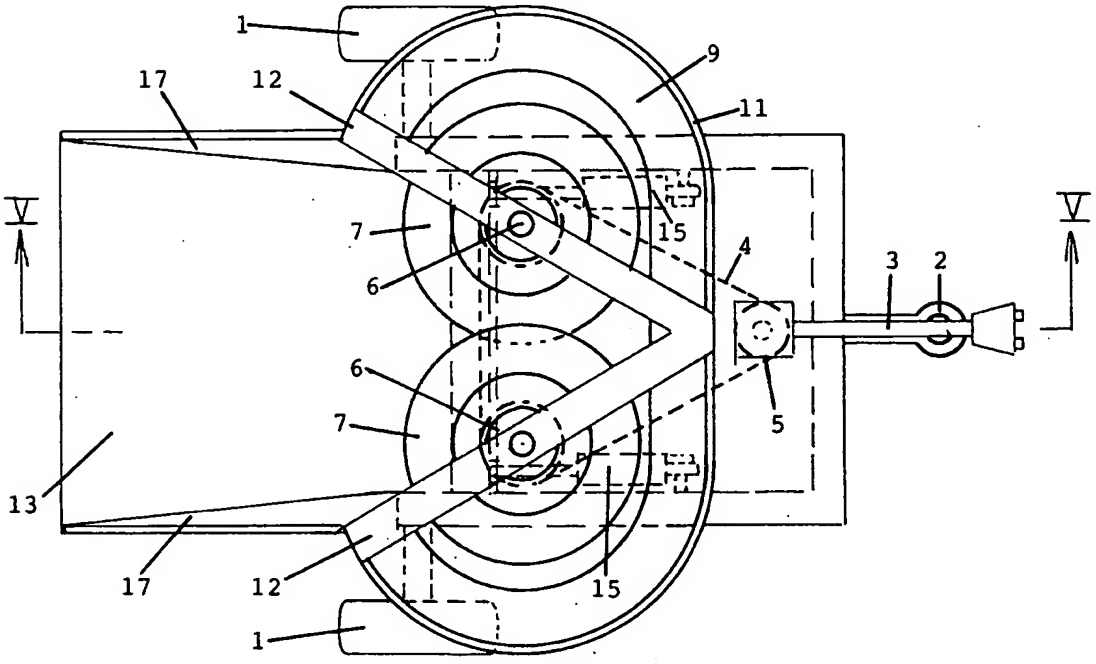

FIG. 4

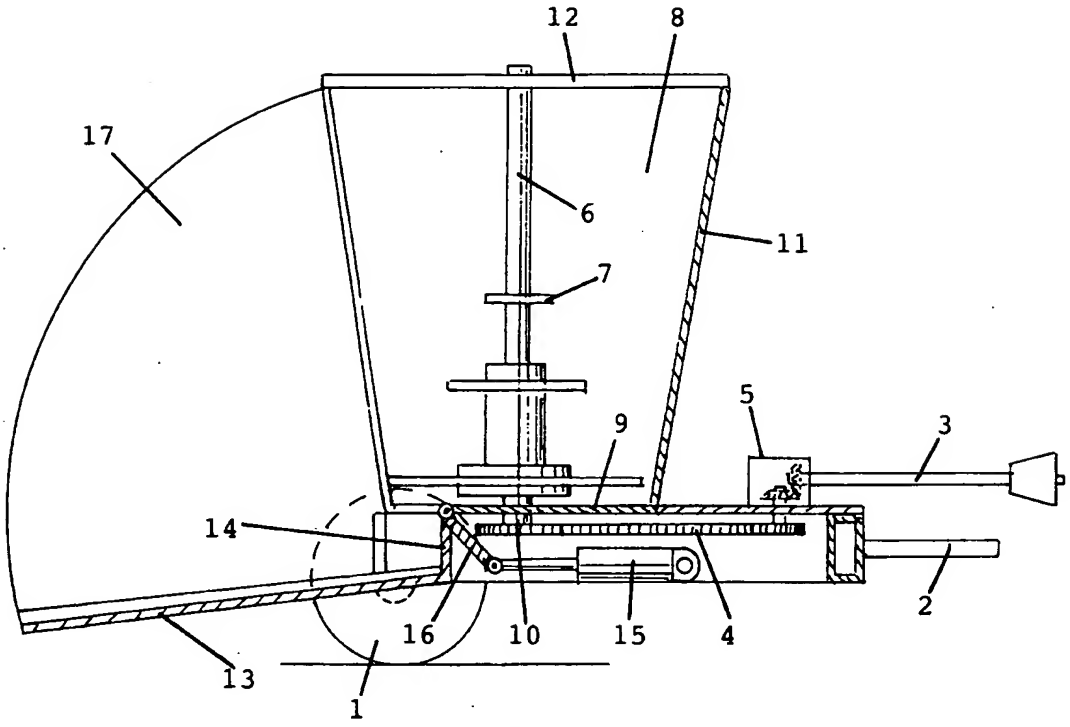

FIG. 5

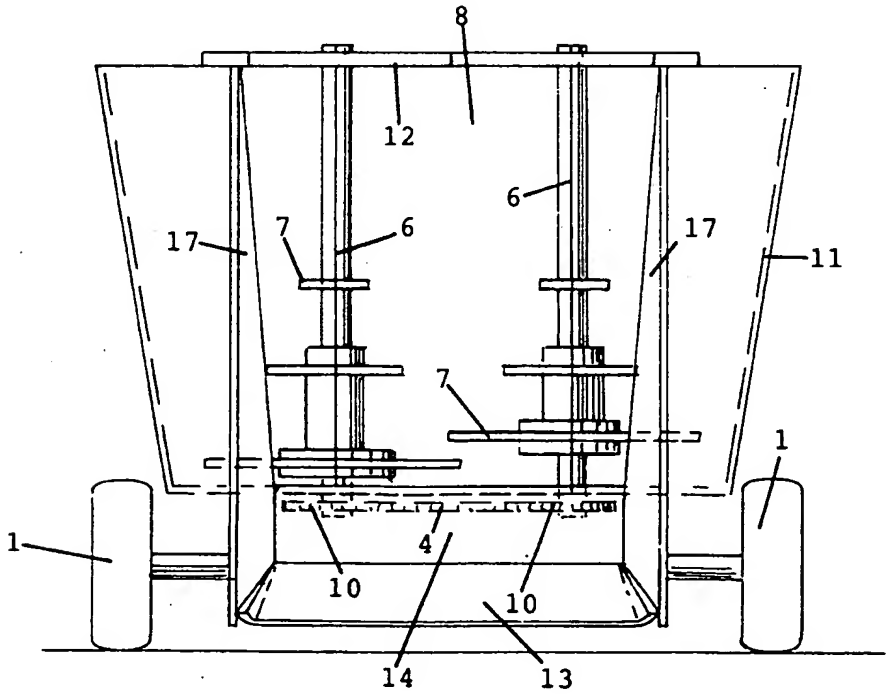

FIG.6

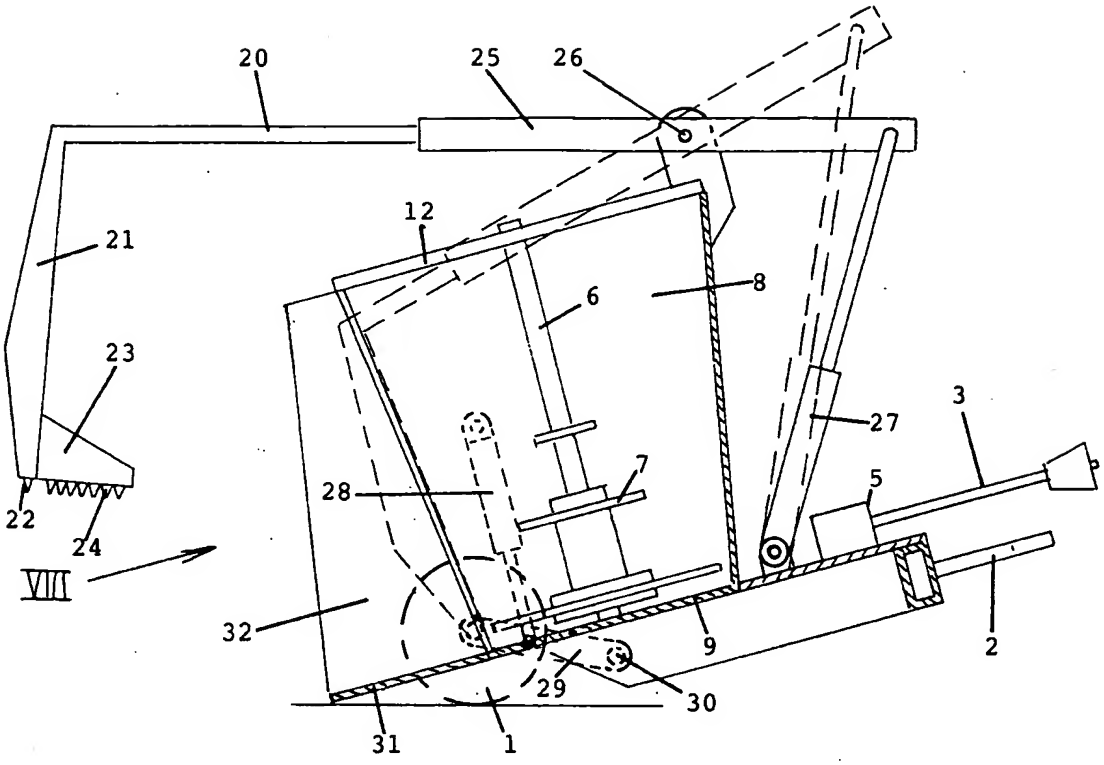
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FIG. 7

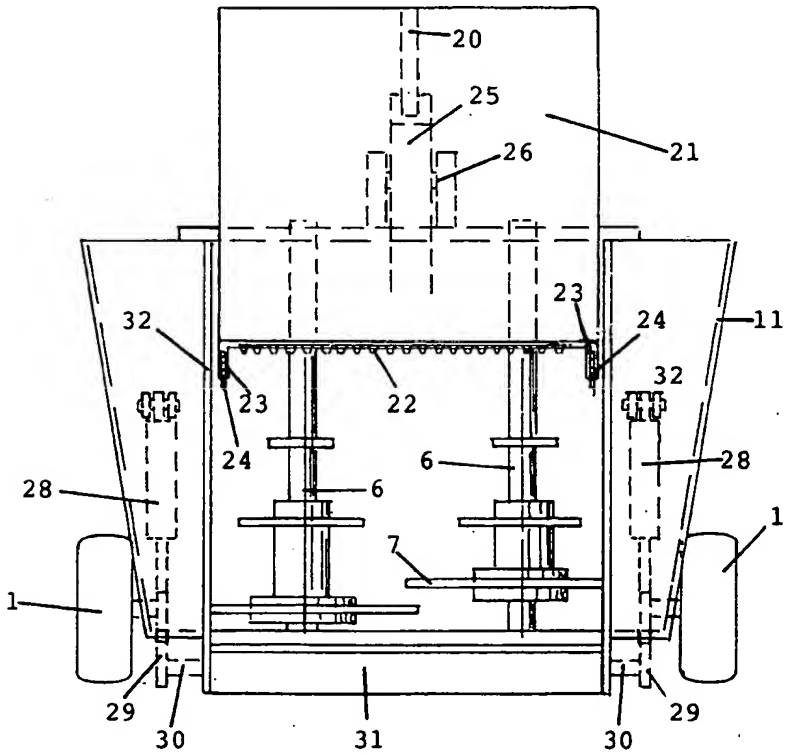
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FIG. 8

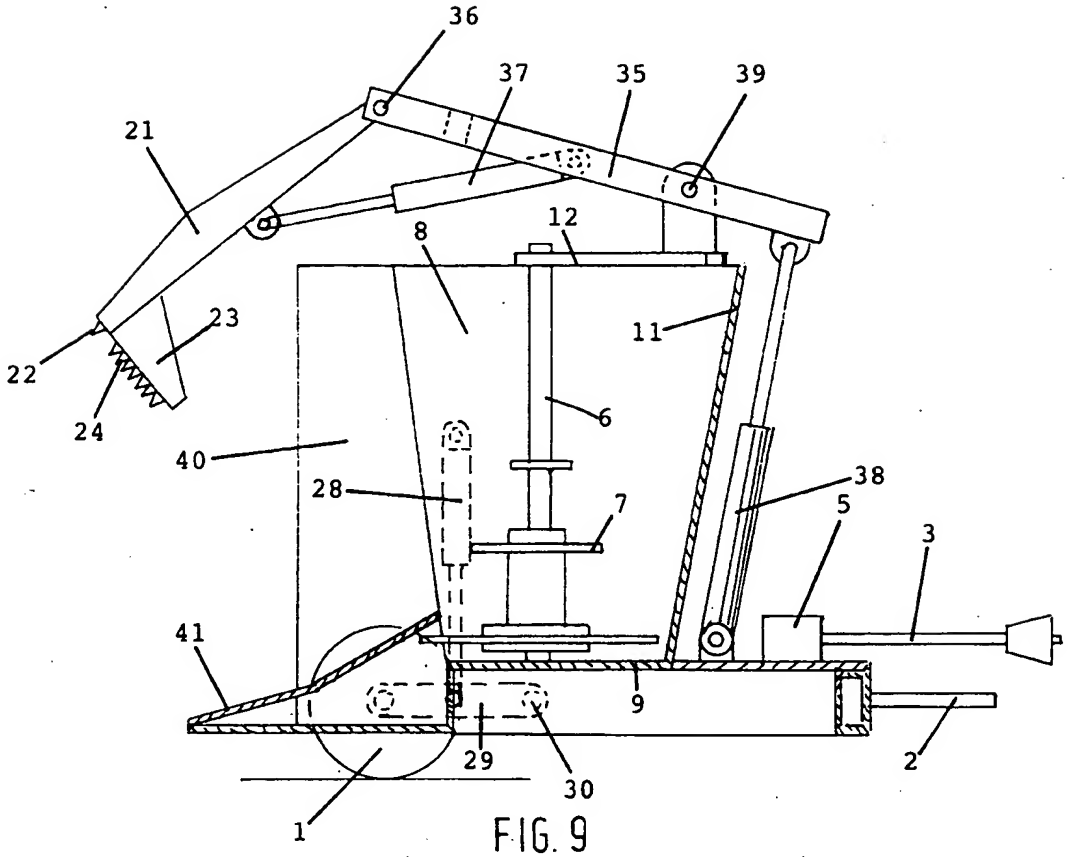
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FIG. 9

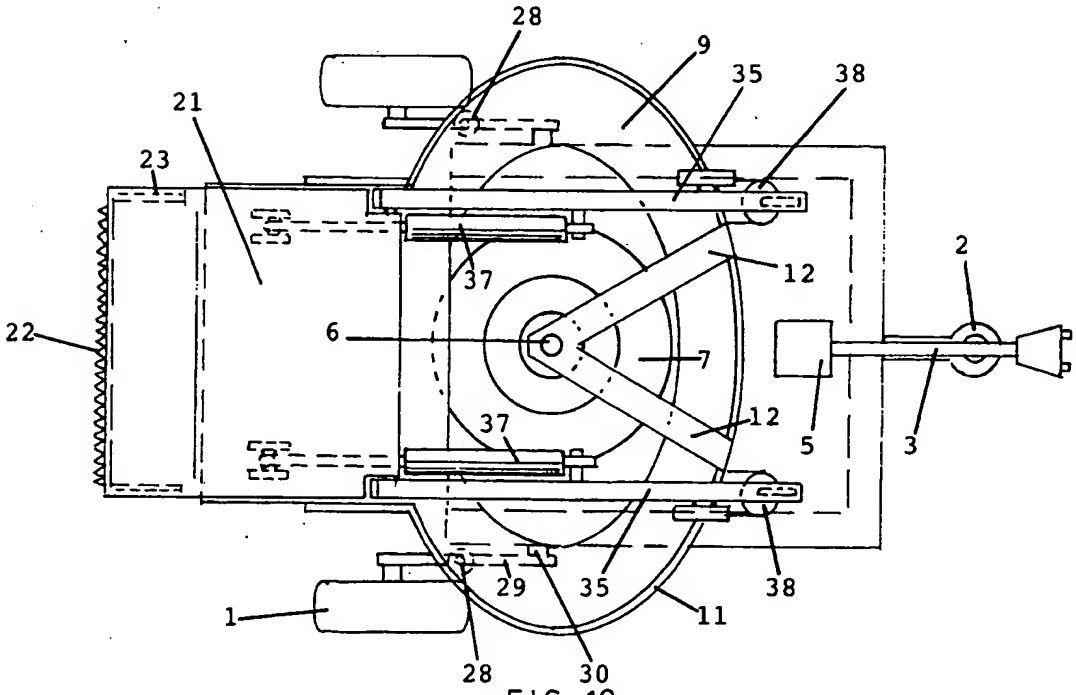
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FIG. 10

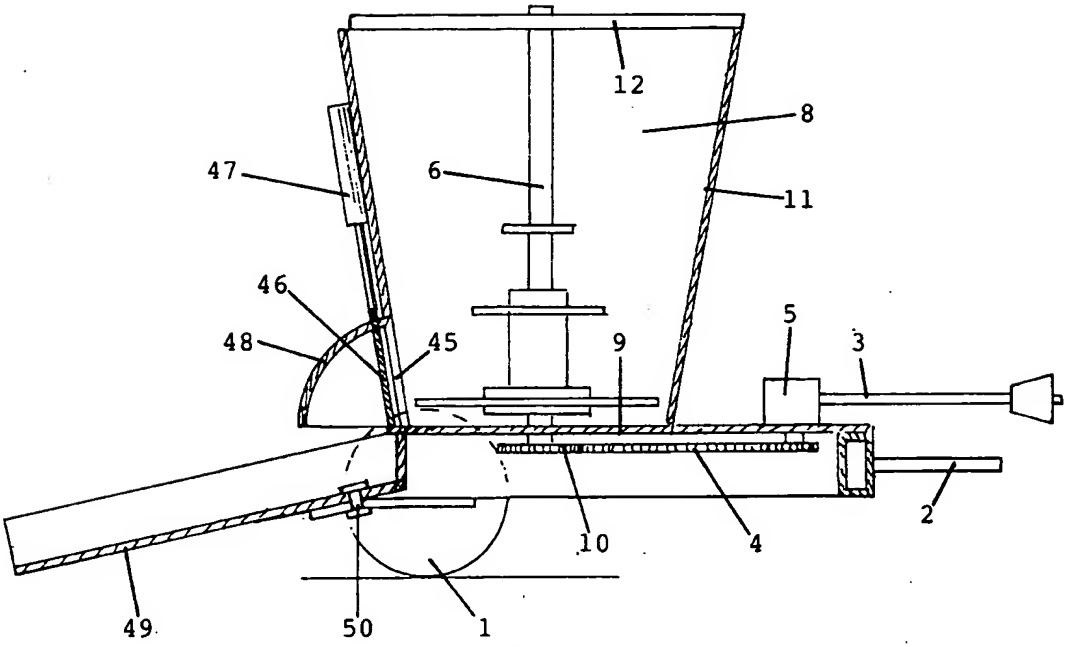

FIG 11

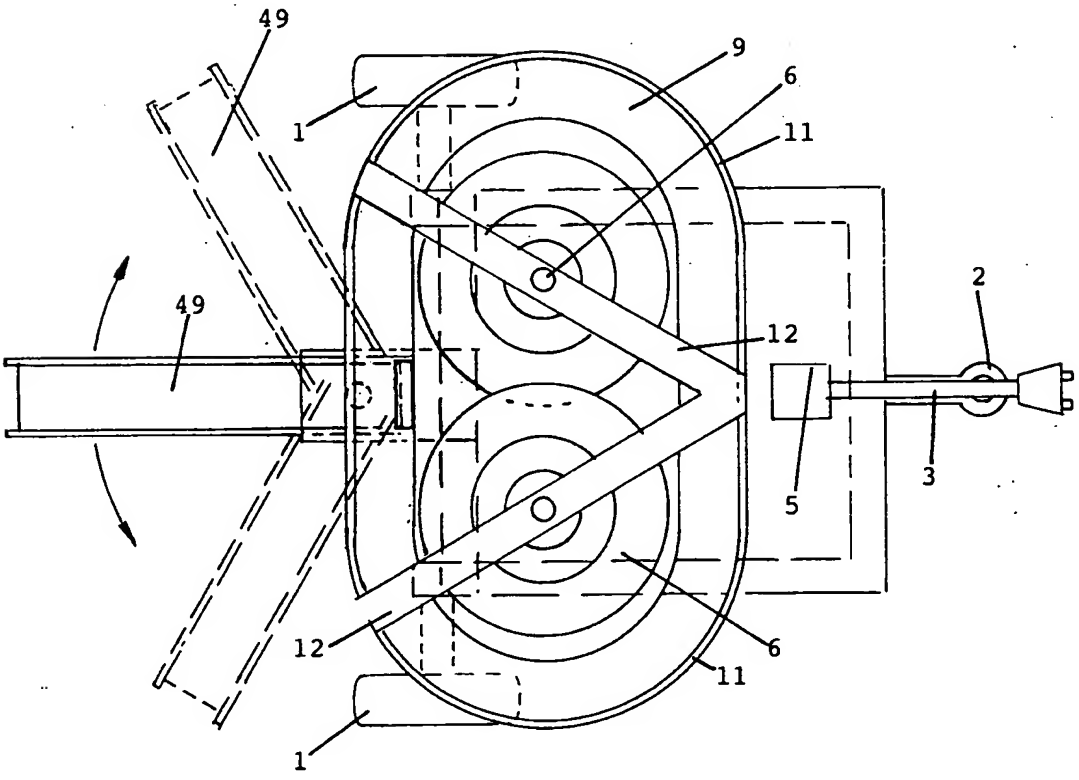

FIG. 12

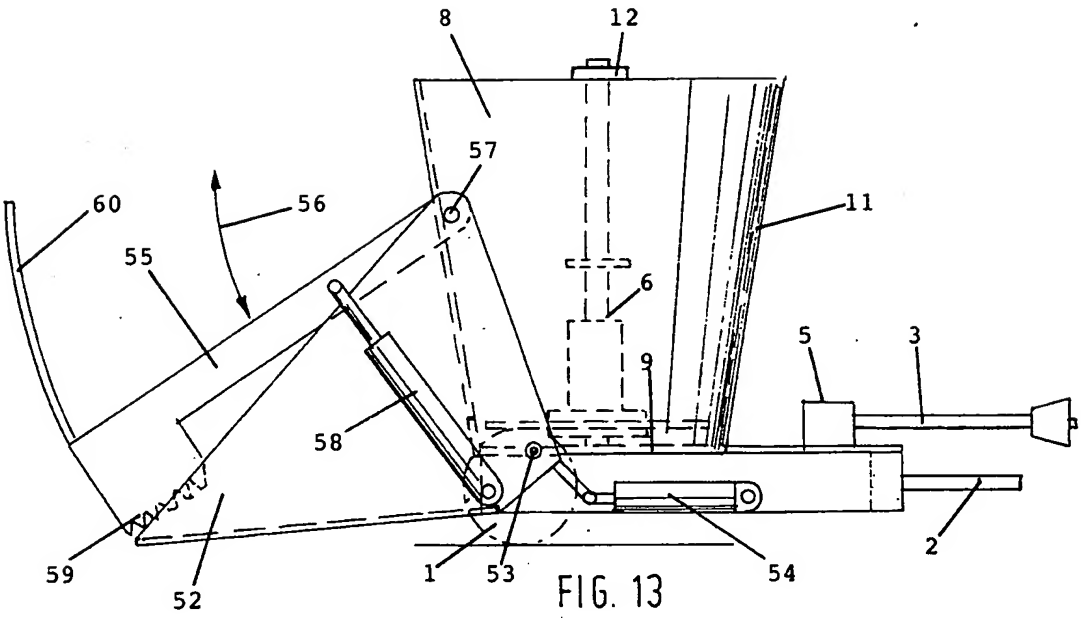

FIG. 13

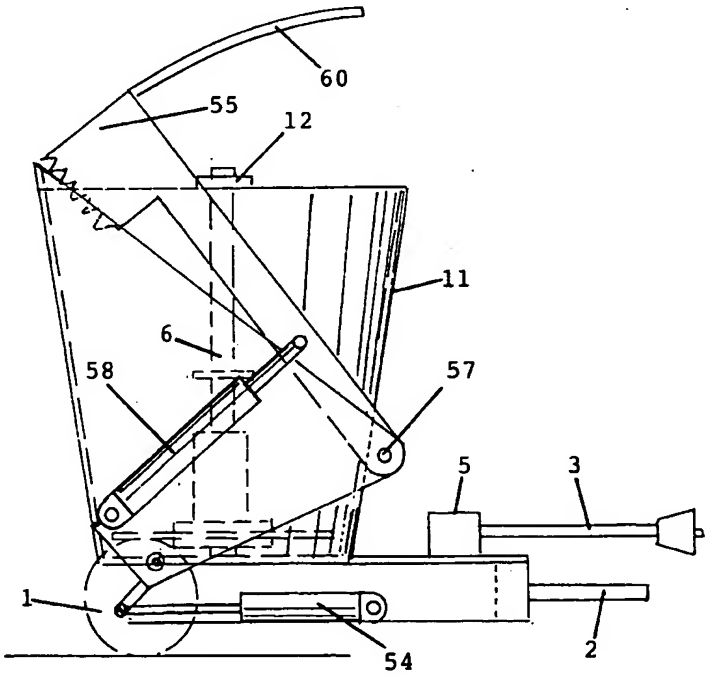

FIG. 14

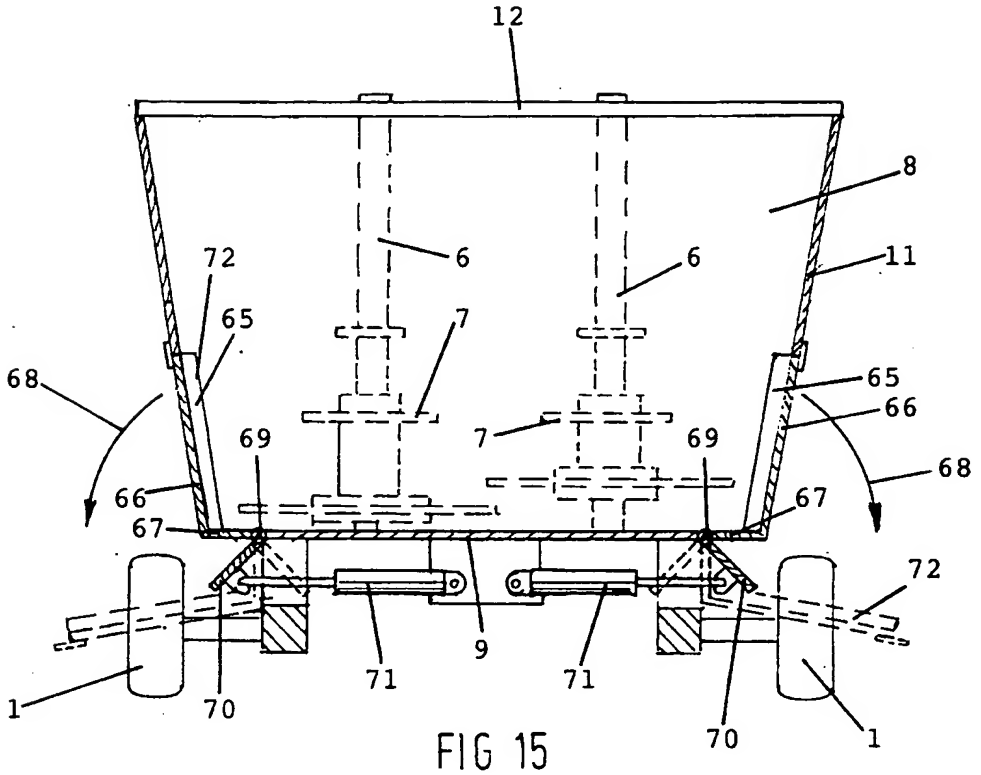
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FIG 15

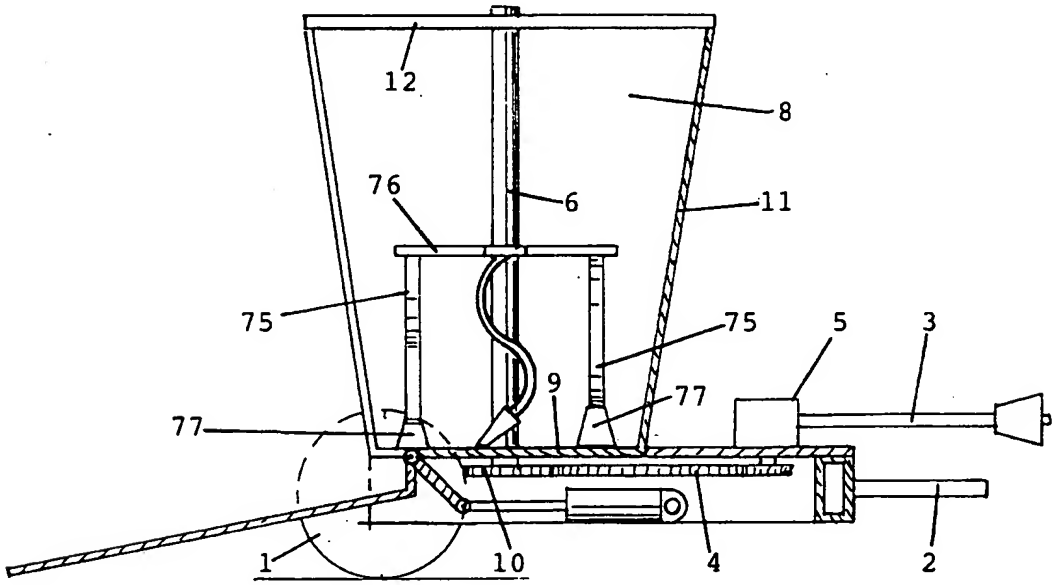
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FIG. 16

European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 95 20 2641

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	US-A-4 432 499 (HENKENSIEFKEN ET AL) 21 February 1984 * column 2, line 19 - column 5, line 64; figures *	1,2,11	A01K5/00
A	EP-A-0 003 813 (B. VAN LENGERICH) 5 September 1979 * page 5 - page 8; figures *	1,2,11	
A	EP-A-0 432 702 (T. FACCIA) 19 June 1991 * the whole document *	1,11	
A	DE-A-27 26 203 (ALBERT TEBBE GMBH) 21 December 1978 * page 10, last paragraph - page 16 *	1-4,7-11	
A	EP-A-0 540 130 (LITECH B.V.) 5 May 1993 * column 1, line 54 - column 7, line 45; figures *	1-4,7,11	
A	EP-A-0 506 158 (TRIOLIET MULLOS B.V.) 30 September 1992 * the whole document *	1,3-8	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6) A01K A23N A01F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE	10 January 1996	Raven, P

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

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